



WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS
IN THE HEARTS OF MEN?

25¢

NO. 11

JULY

30684

THE

THE SHADOW

Shadow

HERO FIGHTS HERO
WHEN
THE *Shadow*
MEETS
the *Avenger!*

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



I hereby certify the following pages to be a true record.

THE **Shadow**

HAHAHAHA

THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF EVIL AND MANY FORMS OF GOOD IN THE WORLD. AT SOME POINT, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO BECOMES LOST IN A NEBULOUS CLOUD OF IDEOLOGIES. ON THIS NIGHT, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PIERCE THAT CLOUD--VILLAIN WILL CLAW AT VILLAIN... CRUSADER WILL CLUTCH AT CRUSADER. ON THIS NIGHT, THE UNKNOWN WILL MERGE WITH THE MACABRE. ON THIS NIGHT--

the
NIGHT
of the

AVENGER!

MICHAEL USLAN and *Eller*
CO-AUTHORS

THE SHADOW, Vol. 3, No. 11, June-July 1976. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher, Dennis O'Neil, Editor, Allan Asherman, Assistant Editor, Sol Harrison, Vice-President, Jack Adler, Production Manager, Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © 1975 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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A MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE
FOR THE SHADOW--AND
WITH MECHANICAL PRECISION,
HIS VAST NETWORK OF LOYAL
AGENTS DARTS INTO ACTION
ON THE DEADLY STREETS
OF CHINATOWN...

THE
SHADOW! GET
THIS TO--

--THE
(UHHG!)
(AHHRRG!)

BAM
BAM

NOW!
HERE HE
COMES!

SMASH!

TH-THE SHADOW!
(UGH!) QUICK!

AND SECONDS LATER, IN A
PLACE THAT MEN SAY
DOESN'T EXIST...

THE MESSAGE!

IT'S
BLANK!

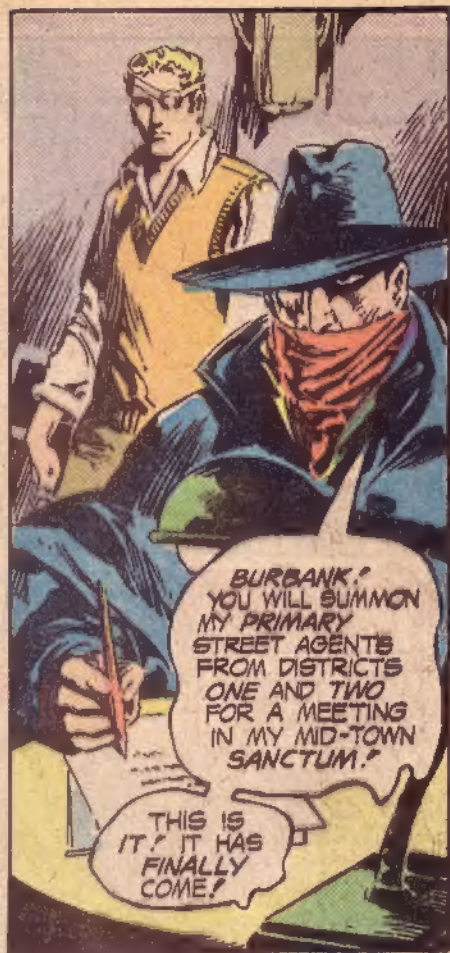
HAHAHA!



YOU LOOK, BUT
YOU DO NOT SEE,
BURBANK. THIS PAPER
MAY TELL OF THE
END OF OUR
SOCIETY.



MY REPORTS
WERE TRUE. IT IS
AS I KNEW.



BURBANK?
YOU WILL SUMMON
MY PRIMARY
STREET AGENTS
FROM DISTRICTS
ONE AND TWO
FOR A MEETING
IN MY MID-TOWN
SANCTUM.

THIS IS
IT! IT HAS
FINALLY
COME!



A GALLERY OF
NAMELESS FACES
FILLS THE LAIR OF
THE SHADOW. FEW
CAN RECOGNIZE ANY
OF THE OTHERS
PRESENT. BUT ALL
HAVE ONE THING IN
COMMON--THEIR
BLIND OBEDIENCE
TO THE MAN IN
BLACK.

...AND I
NEED THE POWER
OF YOUR GUNS AS
WELL. YOU WILL
EACH RECEIVE WRITTEN
INSTRUCTIONS. WE
MUST GET THEM
BEFORE--

EVERYONE
TO THE
FLOOR!!

THE SHADOW'S AGENTS ARE DRIVEN INTO VIOLENT ACTION LESS BY THE SUDDEN STORMING OF THEIR SECRET HEADQUARTERS THAN BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE OF THEIR OWN MUST HAVE BETRAYED THEM...

KRASH! RATATATAT! BLAM! BLAM! POW! BUDDARY!



FROM OUT OF THE BLACKNESS LEAPS THE SHADOW...

THOSE EYES! THAT SOUND! IT-- IT'S A--

IT CAN'T BE! NOOOO!

--AND THE SHADOW'S AGENTS REALIZE THAT THE INTRUDERS ARE SEEING FAR BEYOND WHAT THEIR OWN EYES RECORD!

BLINDLY, THE ENEMY SEEKS RELEASE FROM THE TERROR IN THEIR MINDS--



WE CAPTURED THIS BIG FISH, SHADOW. HE SEEMED TO BE LEADING THIS BLITZ.

REMOVE HIS HOOD AT ONCE!



GAZE INTO MY GIRASOL! WHO ARE YOU? WHO SENT YOU?

I...AM... ALGERNON HEATHCOTE SMITH--SMITTY! I WAS...SENT BY... THE AVENGER!



SUDDENLY-- THE ICE-EYED MAN HEARS A WEAPON BEING COCKED... WHIRLS... ACTS--!





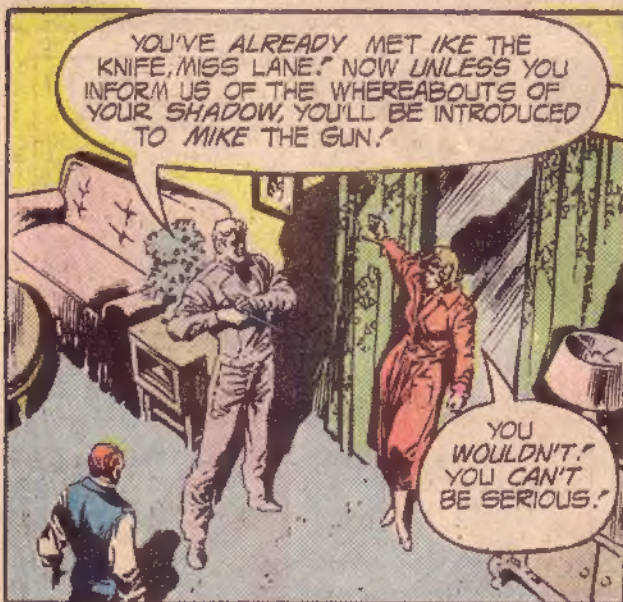
ALL RIGHT, MAC--LET'S SEE WHO OUR WOULD-BE ASSASSIN IS.



WHO ARE YOU? WHO SENT YOU?

MY NAME...IS... MARGO LANE.

...AND I WORK FOR...THE SHADOW.

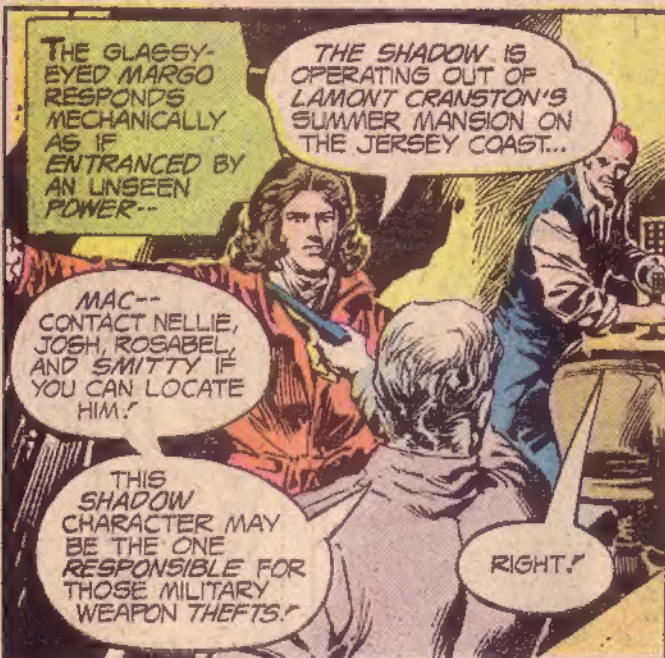


YOU'VE ALREADY MET IKE THE KNIFE, MISS LANE. NOW UNLESS YOU INFORM US OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR SHADOW, YOU'LL BE INTRODUCED TO MIKE THE GUN.

YOU WOULDN'T. YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.



MISS LANE-- I AM ALWAYS SERIOUS.



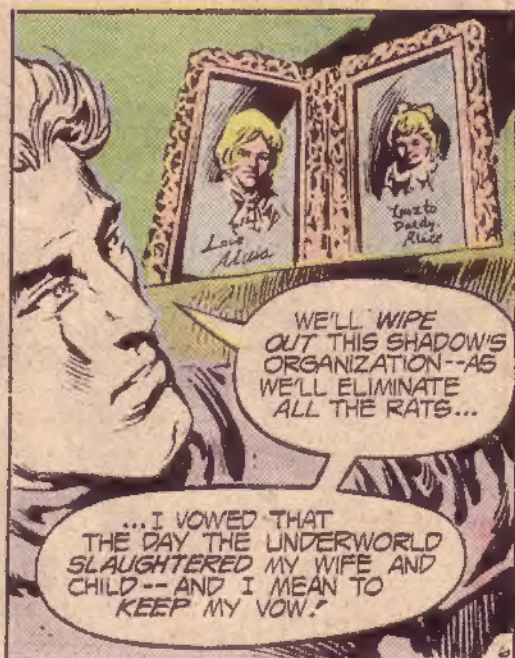
THE GLASSY-EYED MARGO RESPONDS MECHANICALLY AS IF ENTRANCED BY AN UNSEEN POWER--

THE SHADOW IS OPERATING OUT OF LAMONT CRANSTON'S SUMMER MANSION ON THE JERSEY COAST...

MAC-- CONTACT NELLIE, JOSH, ROSABEL AND SMITTY IF YOU CAN LOCATE HIM.

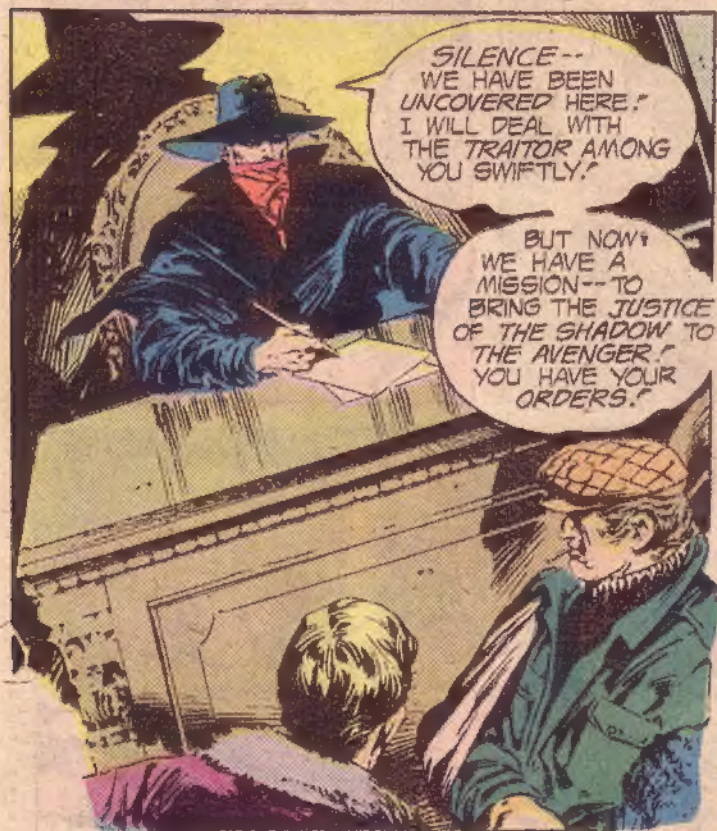
THIS SHADOW CHARACTER MAY BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE MILITARY WEAPON THEFTS.

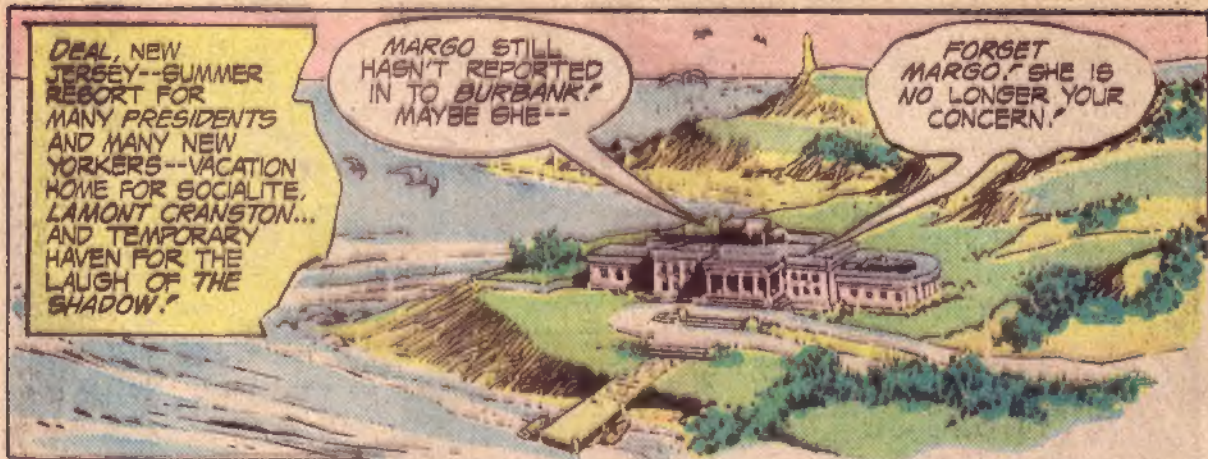
RIGHT!



WE'LL WIPE OUT THIS SHADOW'S ORGANIZATION--AS WE'LL ELIMINATE ALL THE RATS...

...I VOWED THAT THE DAY THE UNDERWORLD SLAUGHTERED MY WIFE AND CHILD--AND I MEAN TO KEEP MY VOW.





DEAL, NEW JERSEY--SUMMER REPORT FOR MANY PRESIDENTS AND MANY NEW YORKERS--VACATION HOME FOR SOCIALITE, LAMONT CRANSTON... AND TEMPORARY HAVEN FOR THE LAUGH OF THE SHADOW."

MARGO STILL HASN'T REPORTED IN TO BURBANK? MAYBE SHE--

FORGET MARGO." SHE IS NO LONGER YOUR CONCERN."



YOU AND JERICO WILL HAVE THE AGENTS MEET ME AT THE SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE-- TONIGHT."



A MIST OF SALT AIR SLINKS ACROSS THE DESERTED JERSEY SAND DUNES THAT NIGHT, CARRYING WITH IT THE STENCH OF EVIL...



INSIDE THE LIGHTHOUSE, TWO MEN CONFER, UNAWARE THEY ARE OVERHEARD...

WITH THESE TORPEDOES, OUR STOCKPILE WILL BE BIG ENOUGH TO BLOW UP THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD."

THE MASTER WILL TRULY CONQUER ALL." COME, THE SUB IS DUE."



WHO...?



WHY DOESN'T
THE MASTER
HELP ME? AFTER
ALL MY YEARS OF
DEVOTION--

MY-MY
ONLY CHANCE
IS TO ATTACK
THIS HYENA!



Y-YOU CANNOT
FRIGHTEN ME,
MANIAC! YOU ARE
ONLY A MAN!

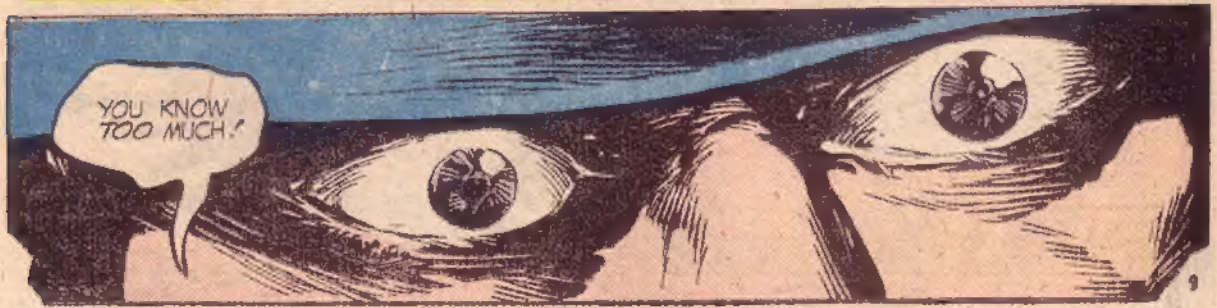
AM
I?



YES!
ONLY A MAN!
LET'S SEE WHO
YOU REALLY
ARE!



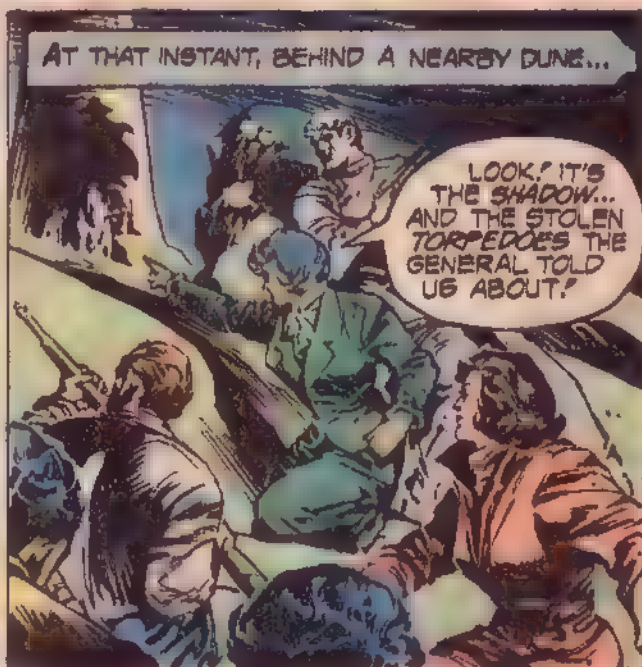
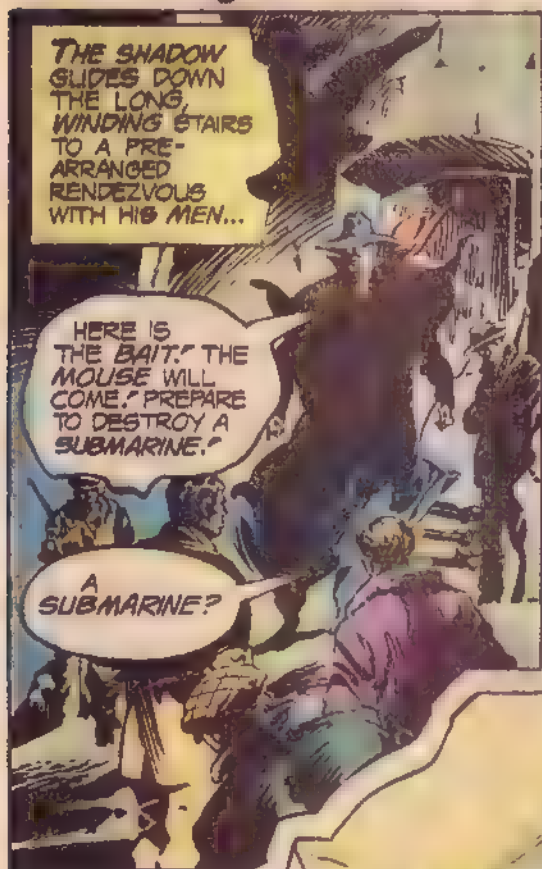
THE DARK
EAGLE!



YOU KNOW
TOO MUCH!

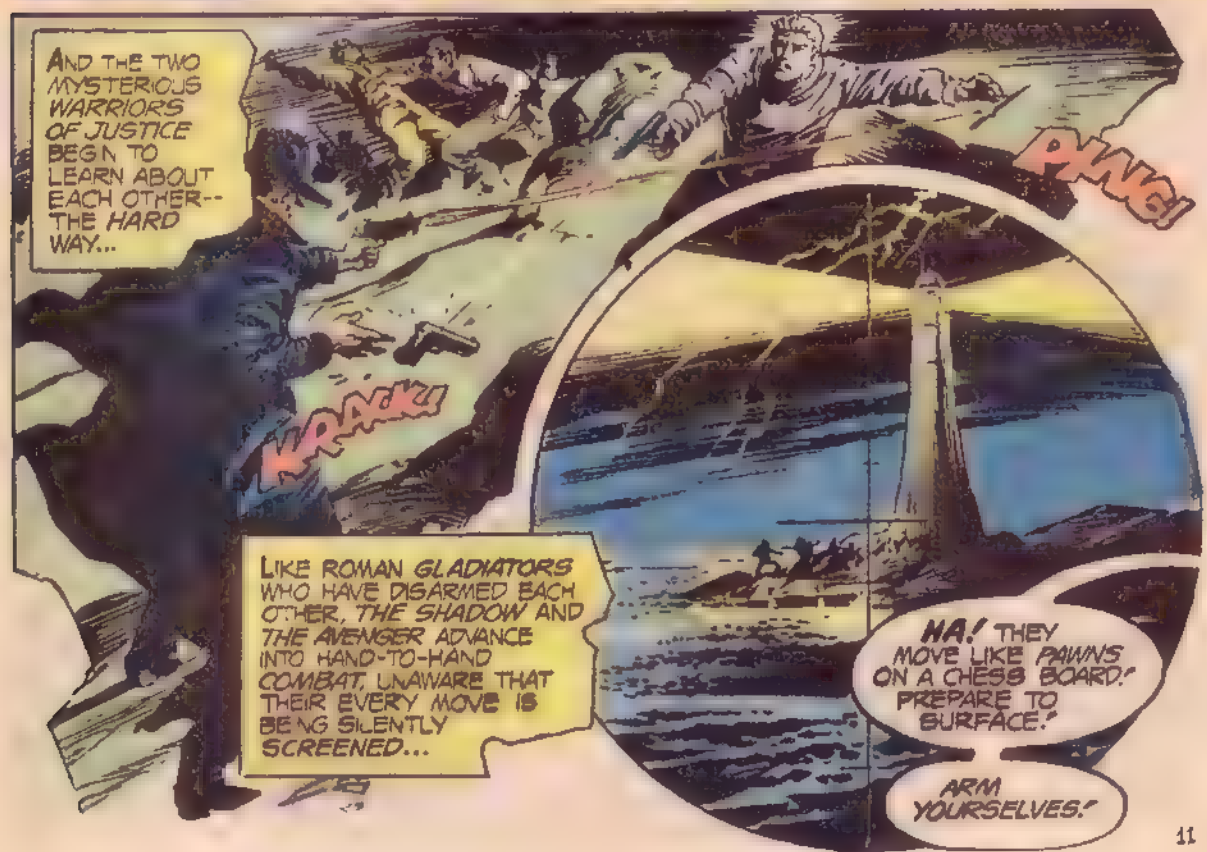
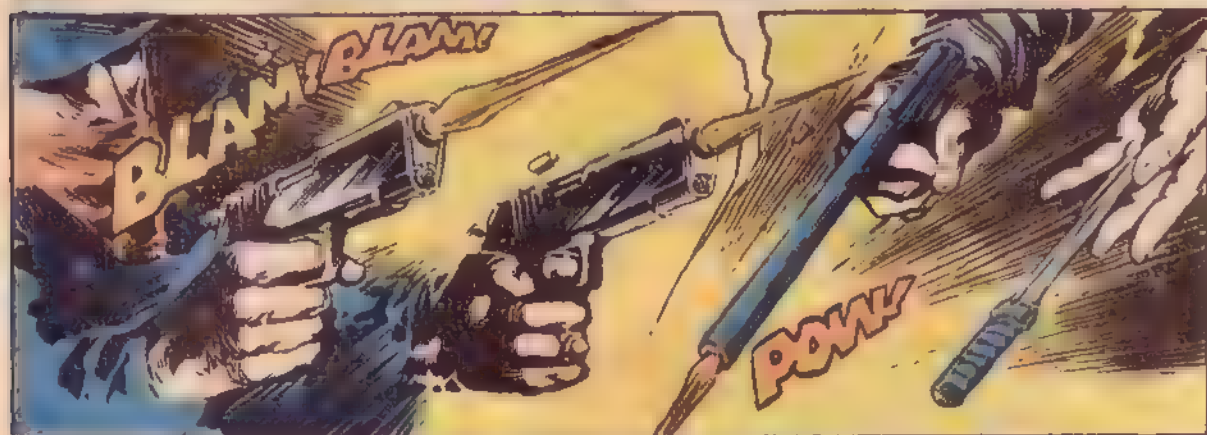


...AND THE SECRET OF THE DARK EAGLE, WHATEVER IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, IS LOST TO AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD.



IT BEGINS. IF THE WORLD IS INDEED A STAGE, THEN THE CURTAIN HAS RISEN ON THE FINAL ACT.

TAKE THEM!



BUT EVEN PAWNS
CAN SOMETIMES DO
THE UNEXPECTED...

YOUR
FACE?
IT--

STOP! ALL
OF YOU! WE HAVE
BEEN DECEIVED!

YOUR...FACE?
MY REPORTS TELL ME
OF A CRIME-FIGHTER
NAMED RICHARD BENSON
WITH A FACE THAT IS
MALLEABLE LIKE
CLAY!

I AM
BENSON!
AND
YOU--?

I AM...THE
SHADOW! I
DESTROY
CRIME!

YOU NOW CALL
YOURSELF "THE" AVENGER?
IS THAT NOT A BIT
VAIN?

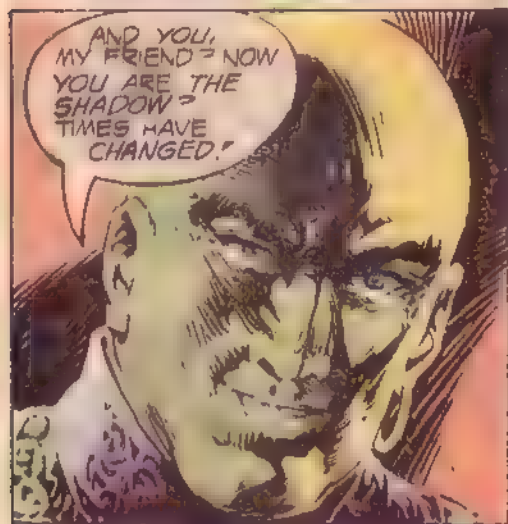
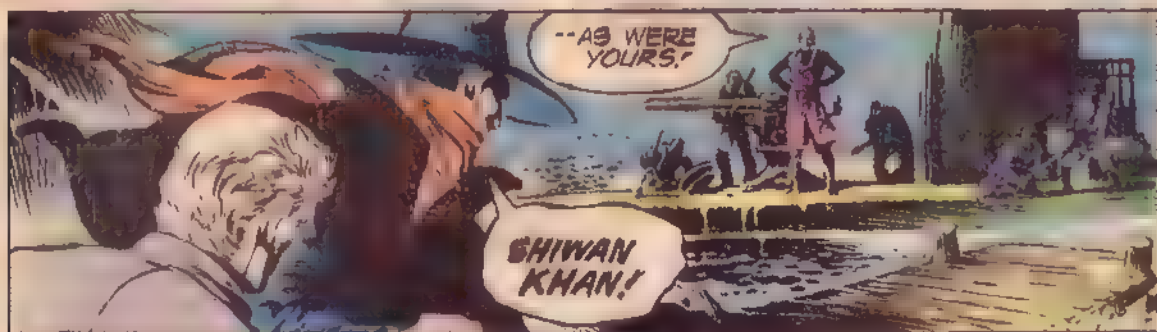
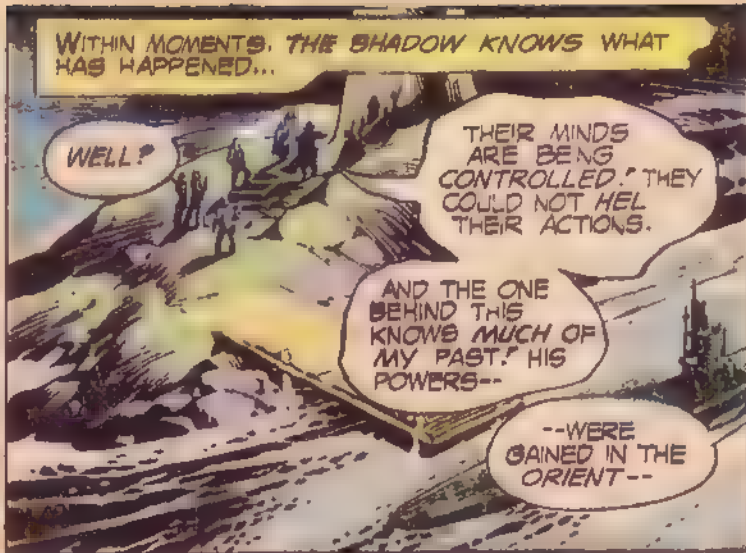
PERHAPS...IF I
THOUGHT MYSELF HOLY
ENOUGH TO SIMPLY
DISPOSE OF EVIL RATHER
THAN LET JUSTICE
DICTATE THE COURSE!

AN ETERNAL
SECOND OF
SILENT TENSION
MOUNTS BETWEEN
THE TWO FORCES
OF GOOD, THEN IT
IS SUDDENLY
BROKEN BY
A LOUD
COMMAND...

HARRY! BRING
MARGO HERE! JERICO!
BRING FORWARD THE
AVENGER'S AIDE! I
WILL FIND OUT WHY THEY
ATTEMPTED MURDER BY
PIERCING THE DEPTHS
OF THEIR MINDS!

NO
TRICKS,
MISTER!

I HAVE MY
METHODS! I DO
NOT ASK FOR YOUR
APPROVAL, BUT I
DEMAND YOUR
RESPECT!



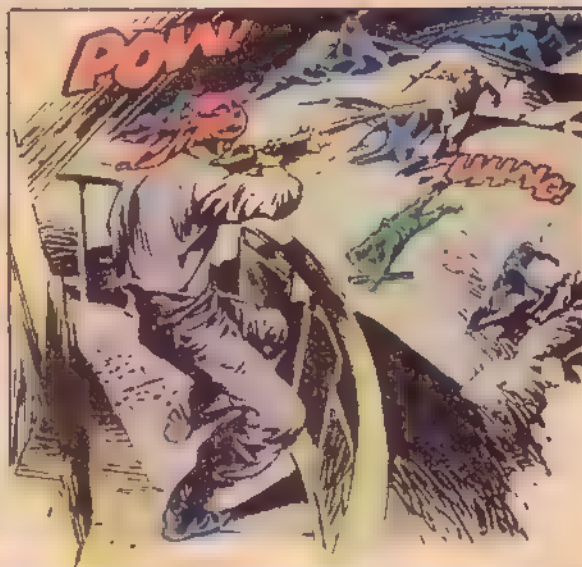
A POWER-MAD PRATE, SOMEHOW LINKED TO THE VAGUE PAST OF THE MAN WHO IS AFTER HIS BLOOD-- KHAN'S ARMY WITH STOLEN MILITARY WEAPONS COULD TAKE OVER COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY IF NOT STOPPED HERE--NOW, AND EVERYONE KNOWS IT!



THERE'S SO MANY! THEY KEEP COMING!



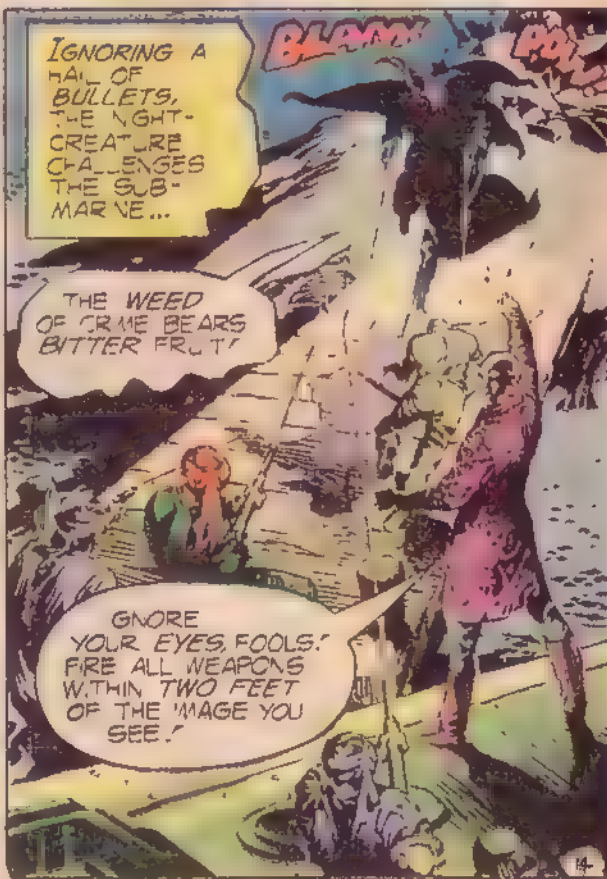
THEN FIGHT HARDER, WOMAN-- FIGHT HARDER!



AS THE WOUNDED JOSH FALLS, RICHARD BENSON DOES WHAT HE DOES BEST--**AVENGES!**

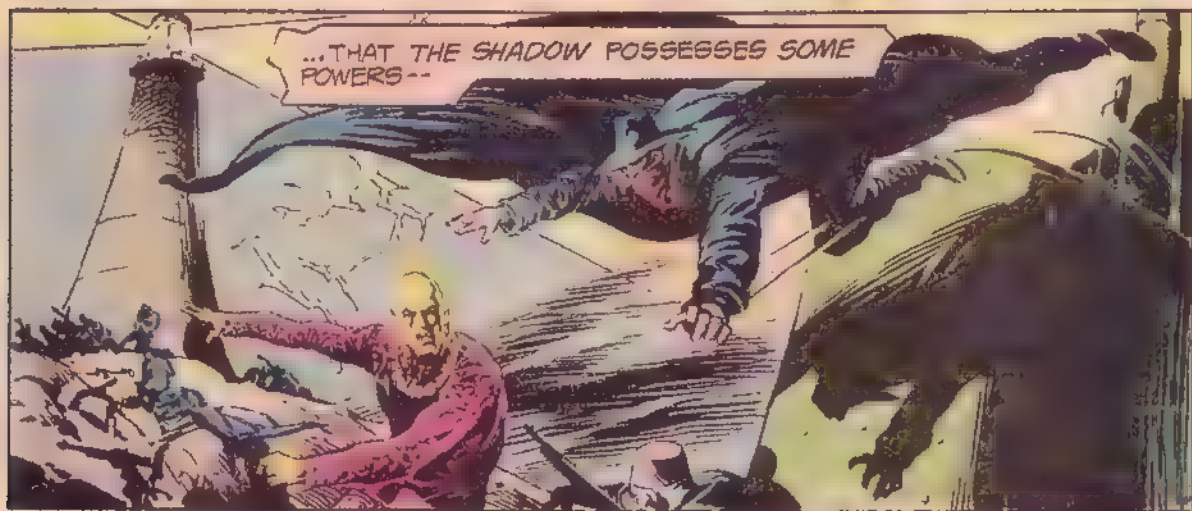


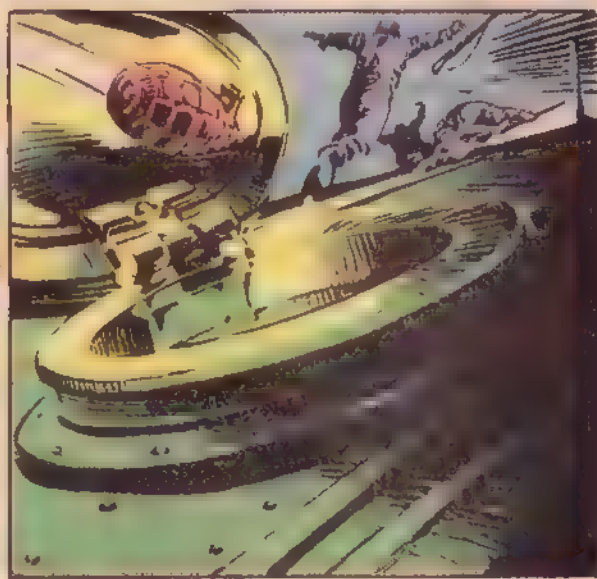
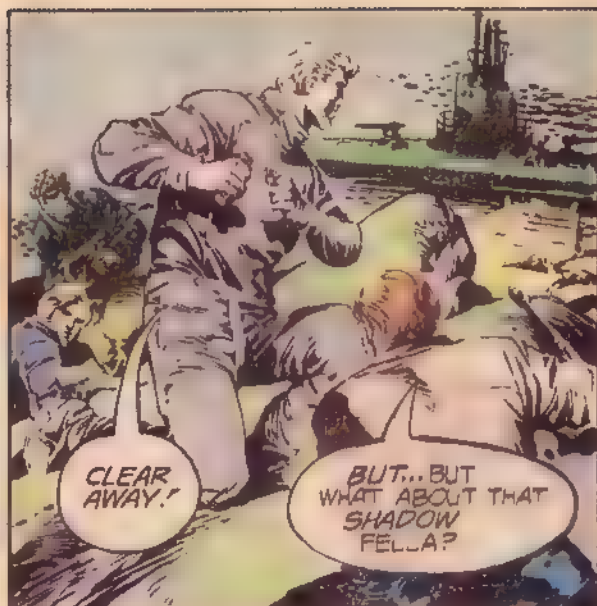
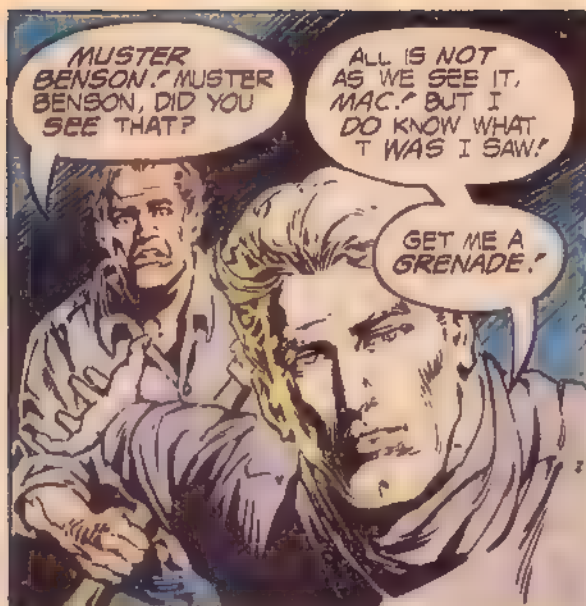
IGNORING A HAIL OF BULLETS, THE NIGHT-CREATURE CHALLENGES THE SUB-MARVE...

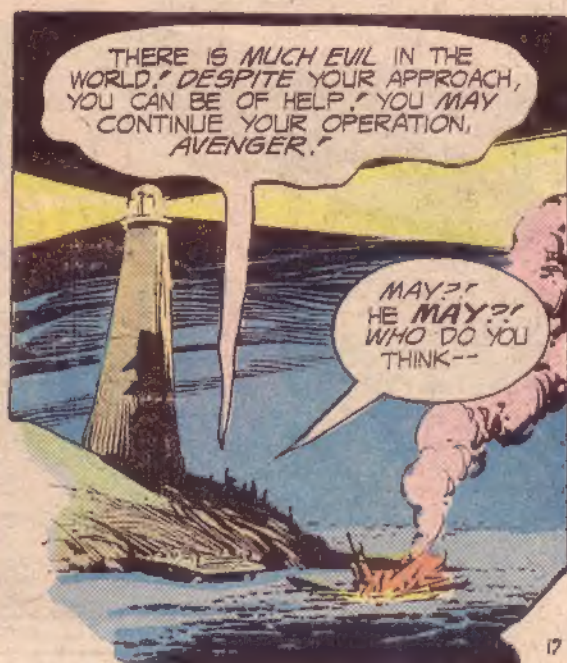


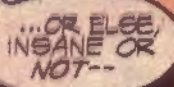
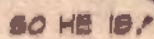
THE WEED OF CRIME BEARS BITTER FRUIT!

IGNORE YOUR EYES, FOOLS! FIRE ALL WEAPONS WITHIN TWO FEET OF THE WAGE YOU SEE!









THE *Shadow* KNOWS

Z-271



Up front, I've got to thank trusty assistant Allan Asherman and good buddy Tony Tollin for filling this space while I was away vacationing and, when I returned, buried in the details of launching three new titles: *Beowulf*, *Justice Inc.*, and *Kung Fu Fighter*. (Yes, folks, an unabashed plug.)

A lot has happened—most notably, the hiring of a new artist. Herewith, I go on record: I think E.R. Cruz is the best yet. His version of the Shadow seems to me pretty close to the definitive one. Your opinion?

Now, to the mails...

Dear Denny and Allan:

"Night of the Falling Death" did justify the enthusiastic comments I'd heard about it. Michael Uslan's debut as a writer was very successful and was, to be honest, far more interesting and tightly plotted than most of Denny O'Neil's own Shadow scripts. It wasn't hard to guess the identities of the Ninja or the Mummy, but the "Murdock" business caught me completely by surprise. Very good work.

Richard Morrissey, Framingham, Ma.

Gentlemen:

Having just purchased *Shadow* #9, "Night of the Falling Death," I must admit to extreme disappointment and dissatisfaction in the efforts of Michael Uslan to supplant Denny O'Neil as a storyteller and in Uslan's almost total lack of understanding of the character and story he is supposed to be presenting.

Rich Durham, Florham Park, N.J.

Taken together, the above two letters need no comment. Maybe just a tear or two...

Dear Sirs:

The following poem is a collage of different experiences on my part: Doc Savage paperbacks from the flea market, finding an old copy of *The Spirit* in the basement among piles of newspaper, listening to *The Shadow* on the old time radio station, my father's account of when he saw *Dracula* at the midnight showing of the cinema. But a huge part of it is the DC *Shadow*, which engendered the thought about morality. I hope it gives you a fraction of the joy that your magazine has given me.

In the shadowy-spirit days of adolescence
The hit-men skulked in pretty corners.
The only thing a hero needed
Was a pair of pistols and a haunting laugh.
Causes were as plentiful as gun-runners.
And bootleggers were always good for an issue brawl or so.

The crunching-gravel alleyways of the old neighborhood

Held heroes, villains by the score
(Where did Evil Brain meet the Man of Bronze)

And I did my wildest deeds in the Saturday matinee.

I guess that things were different then.
Now, you can't tell the heroes
From the villains without a tabloid,
And the only shadow falls
Where strict choices of black and white
Used to be.
(for my father, 2/11/74.)

Ms. Bernadette Lynn Bosky,
Greencastle, Ind.

I'm sorry we don't have space to print the whole of your letter, Bernadette, but I did want to get that very nice poem in.

Dear Denny,

I was looking over *The Shadow* and I noticed that the beginning was quite similar to the beginning of a Shadow radio show. I heard it a few times on that Jack Benny-narrated Golden Era of radio album. I wonder if Mike stole the idea from some poor radio scripter of decades past.

Robert Greenberger, Jericho, N.Y.

'Fraid Mike would probably plead guilty, Bob.

Dear Denny,

This is terrible! "Night of Neptune's Death / of the Ninja / of the Beast / of the Mummy? of the Falling Death!

The Shadow has really bad nights! Honest, can't you brilliant people think of better titles?

Jim DeLorenzo, Trenton, N.J.

Not the first such complaint we've heard, Jim. Comments from other Shadowphiles?

Dear Sirs:

Recently on the letters page I've noticed that there has been considerable talk of revealing the Shadow's origin. Although I am as curious as everyone else, I feel you should not do this. Such an action would lessen the aura of mystery about the Shadow and the magazine's quality would diminish.

Kerry Kirspe, Shreveport, La.

So the Great Origin Controversy continues... Slightly more than half of you who have been concerned enough to write us feel, as does Kerry, that we should leave the Dark Avenger's origin... dark. A couple of months ago I had the extreme pleasure of spending an afternoon with the great Walter Gibson, the near genius who wrote The Shadow's earliest adventures and, among other questions, I asked him about an origin story. Well, it does exist, in one of Walter's Shadow novels, but I don't think we can possibly do it justice in our 18 page format. Three possibilities: First, we can present it as a continued story, in two issues. Or, second, we can wait until we have more pages to play with. Or we can forget the whole matter. What say you?

Till next time... You know what bears bitter fruit, and you know who knows it.

the fun is
standard
EQUIPMENT



You buy a bike for fun, right?

So you want a bike that's fun to ride. And doesn't need a lot of fixing.

You want a Browning Grade I Ten Speed.

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The Browning Grade I has a kick stand, so you don't always have to search for something to lean it up against.

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